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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/527,752

10/24/2005

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EXAMINER

VO, HAI

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1771

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

04/18/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/527,752

Applicant(s)

SASAKI ET AL.

Examiner

Hai Vo

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 February 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 9-16 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 17 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 March 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/6/07, 10/11/05, and 03/14/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claims 1-8, 17 and 18, drawn to a porous film.

Group II, claims 9-16, drawn to a process for making a porous film.

The inventions listed as Groups I-II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: Claim 1 is anticipated or obvious over JP 2002-209822 or WO 2001/19906 separately. As the recited structure does not make a contribution over the prior art, unity of invention is lacking and restriction is appropriate.

During a telephone conversation with Bruce Kramer on 03/26/2007 a provisional election was made with traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-8, 17 and 18. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 9-16 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 3 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 1 makes clear that the surface of the film is porous. However, the pores in the surface portion became plugged resulting in a water permeability of zero as set out in claim 3. Likewise, Claim 3 is in conflict with claim 1. Similarly, the gas permeability set forth in claim 8 is in conflict with the surface porosity described in claim 1.
4. Claim 18 provides for the use of a porous film, but, since the claim does not set forth any steps involved in the method/process, it is unclear what method/process applicant is intending to encompass. A claim is indefinite where it merely recites a use without any active, positive steps delimiting how this use is actually practiced.

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed recitation of a use, without setting forth any steps involved in the process, results in an improper definition of a process, i.e., results in a claim which is not a proper process claim under 35 U.S.C. 101. See for example *Ex parte Dunki*, 153 USPQ 678 (Bd.App. 1967) and *Clinical Products, Ltd. v. Brenner*, 255 F. Supp. 131, 149 USPQ 475 (D.D.C. 1966).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-8, 17 and 18 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over JP 2002-209822. JP'822 discloses a porous film consisting of a polymetaphenylene isophthalamide, having micropores distributed in the entire surface of the porous film (paragraph 1, abstract). The porous film has a porosity of 40 to 90% and the open area of 10 to 70% on the film surface. The porous film has an average pore size of 0.5 to 20 microns at the film surface (paragraph 5). The porous film is about 25 μm thick (paragraph 4). The claims do not require the porosity of two surfaces be different. The inorganic salt can be added with an amount from 0 to 50 wt% based on 100 wt% of the polymer (paragraph 13). Likewise, the presence of the inorganic salt is optional. JP'822 does not specifically disclose the heat of fusion, heat shrinkage, water permeability and gas permeability. However, those properties would be inherently present because JP'822 uses the same material as Applicants to form a porous film which has porosity, open area ratio of two surfaces, an average pore size on the film surface within the claimed ranges. This is in line with *In re Spada*,

15 USPQ 2d 1655 (1990) which holds that products of identical chemical composition can not have mutually exclusive properties. It seems from the claim, if one meets the structure recited, the properties must be met or Applicant's claim is incomplete.

It has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed blank is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed porous film from a prior art cleaning sheet satisfying the claimed structural limitations. *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987). Accordingly, JP'822 anticipates or strongly suggests the claimed subject matter.

8. Claims 1-8, 17 and 18 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over WO 01/19906. US 2004/0161598 to Ohno et al will be relied on as an equivalent form of WO 01/19906 for convenience. Ohno discloses a porous film consisting of a polymetaphenylene isophthalamide having continuous pores with a gas permeability of 0.2 to 1000 ml/sec (paragraphs 21 and 44). The porous film has a porosity of 60 to 80% (paragraph 22). Since the range of the open area ratio on the film surface is overlapping with the porosity of the film, the porosity of 60% to 80% would read on the open area ratio on the film surface as well. The porous film is about 1 to 10 μm thick (paragraph 24). The claims do not require the porosity of two surfaces be different. Ohno discloses the porous film having the gas permeability retention of 98% after heat treatment at 350°C for 10 min, compared to before treatment (paragraphs 21 and example 5). This indicates the porous film has excellent heat

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resistance. There is no indication of using an inorganic salt for forming a porous film (example 1). Ohno does not specifically disclose an average pore size on the surface, heat of fusion and water permeability. However, Ohno uses the same material and the same approach to form the porous film. Hence, it is the examiner's position that those physical properties would be inherently present. This is also in line with *In re Spada*, 15 USPQ 2d 1655 (1990).

It has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed porous film is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed porous film from a prior art porous film satisfying the claimed structural limitations. *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987). Accordingly, Ohno anticipates or strongly suggests the claimed subject matter.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US 2004/0241419 to Yao et al discloses a porous insulating film made from polyimide having a pore size at the center of the film different from the pore size on the surface.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hai Vo whose telephone number is (571) 272-1485. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, from 9:00 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel Morris can be reached on (571) 272-1478. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

HV

Hai Vo
HAIVO
PRIMARY EXAMINER